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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. [redacted] first day [redacted] political education began to take on momentum ad nauseam. [redacted] immediately made aware that their generous and liberating Russian friends were with them and the imperialist enemy was lurking about. This forced love-and-hate theme permeated every possible course and activity in his NCO and OCS training.
2. In the earliest briefings, the draftees were told to write in their letters that everything was fine in the army. The instructors said, "Never tell or write anyone any details of anything or even how much you get to eat and tell your folks not to send packages". They were told that once an enemy spy calculated the strength of a unit by being told how much bread a soldier in the unit was given per day. The spy went to the nearby bakery and discovered how much bread was delivered to the unit.
3. They were given political briefings for relay to family and friends on a variety of subjects including the following: cooperative farms, shock-work, benefits of the Six Year Plan, Russian liberation of and aid to Poland and other People's Democracies, delivery of farm produce to State agencies and any current national or international event. All these subjects were handled in a stereotyped manner which succeeded in appeasing and convincing almost none [redacted] It was sheer propaganda with little basis in fact. [redacted] the political officers (politruks) and agitators (agitatorzy) frequently had a great deal to do as, for example, during the meat and fat shortages in 1951 and 1953. They told the soldiers, many of whom came from farms, to write their parents and tell them not to withhold or fail in their deliveries of farm produce quotas (kontigent) to the State collecting agencies. The men were told that these failures and the sabotage of kulaks and other enemies of the State were responsible for the food shortages. [redacted]

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the common saying was that "the stomach can swallow a whole article on the food shortage but it will refuse to be enlightened".

4. Besides military subjects and activities which were almost never completely apolitical, the soldiers were given two regularly scheduled political courses, "Political Studies" ("Polityczne Zajecia") and "Political Information" ("Polityczna Informacja"). Beside these, the Polish Youth Union (Zwiazek Mlodziezy Polskiej-ZMP) and the CP arranged special meetings after duty hours and on week ends and holidays.
5. The Political Studies courses were given three times a week, two hours each from eight to ten a.m. with a ten minute break in between. These were elementary orientation courses in Communism, Communist personalities (Lenin, Stalin, Marx, Bierut, Rokossowski, etc), building of socialism in Poland, love and aid from Russia to Poland and all the proletariat of the world, State Agricultural Cooperatives (Panstwowe Gospodarstwo Rolne - PGR), and other subjects, all showing the great advantages Communism has over the Western capitalistic system. One political instructor told the enlisted men that, if Stalin had had as much faith and confidence in the Polish Army as he had in the Soviet Army, more of the Western nations would have been liberated from the capitalistic yoke. The superiority of Soviet Russia and everything it produces was constantly stressed. The invincibility of the Soviet Army was even more stressed and described as the might and bulwark of world peace (potega i ostoja pokoju swiatowego). Polish, Russian, and World History was given a Communistic interpretation which was in some instances sheer fabrication but no textbooks or particular system were used in these courses. Lectures, pamphlets, and newspapers were distributed to the men but the subject matter had no particular sequence.
6. The Political Information courses were given three times a week for 45 minutes each and concerned mostly national and international current events which were lectured on with the aid of regime newspapers and pamphlets. The same old themes in terms of today's events were tritely and constantly repeated. These courses greatly overlapped the "Political Studies" subjects and produced very little interest in discussions; in fact there was little attention paid and many of the men would sleep or daydream.
7. The ZMP, which most of the youth was forced to join, had meetings after regular duty hours and on legal holidays and week-ends. Meetings were organized irregularly; there could be one meeting a month or three or four in one week. These meetings could be prompted by a political event or discussion, a legal holiday, a pep rally for the following day's activity (e.g. target practice) or for inciting the men to contribute their week-end holiday time to harvesting at State Agricultural Cooperatives (PGR). Agitators (agitatorzy), who were actual or forced enthusiasts about Communistic undertakings, were used at these meetings to incite the men to promise and obligate themselves to greater efforts and sacrifice. An agitator would rise at one of these meetings and shout, "We obligate ourselves to spend our week-ends (or some holiday) digging potatoes at the PGR", and the whole company or battalion was reluctantly obligated for that chore. If target practice or some other military training was to take place on a Monday, the ZMP would have a meeting lasting through most of the preceding Sunday to explain and instruct the men for the next day's event. This was in addition to regular week-day instruction on this activity. Along with instructions on target practice the

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men were told impassionately to shoot straight at the heart of the imperialist warmongers. At the target range there would be life-sized caricatures of Truman, Eisenhower, and soldiers in Western uniforms. If some other military training was given, it was preceded by a similar meeting which stimulated a hostile war spirit. In briefing on arms and equipment the men were told that it was the best in the world because "it was produced by the Soviet proletariat and had successfully defeated Hitler and liberated the People's Democracies". At those meetings of the ZMP which were held for members only there was even a greater spirit of excitement. The members were expected to give their utmost efforts in every endeavor; any failures or delinquencies, e.g., being late for any roll call or activity, were publicly exposed and the violator was asked to undergo a public "self-criticism".

8. [redacted] it was generally accepted in units that the Party was the overall planning and supervising body for the efficiency and security of the army units. The non-Party enlisted men did not feel the Party's influence directly except by individual contact and through Party supervision which was felt in all phases of army life. The Party had a weekly meeting for its members [redacted]

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[redacted] The Party also had a two hour course for all officers called "Marxist-Leninist Studies" (Zajecia Marksistowskie-Leninowskie) and an after duty hours period (1900-2100) called "Party Schooling" (Szkolenie Partyjne).

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9. Along with examinations on military subjects from NCO schools and OCS, each man was examined on the political orientation he acquired from his political courses. These examinations took place in the form of blindly selected questions answered orally before an examiner who would follow up with other spontaneous questions related to the selected questions.

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[redacted] The political slant was always present even in examinations on military subjects. The "politruks" themselves told the men to "pour it on thick and you will get by". This advised the men that on being examined on arms or equipment they were to speak of the superiority of the "Soviet

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[REDACTED]

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product of the proletariat which has and will continue to liberate the working masses of the world". [REDACTED] injecting these expected political remarks would help get a man by in his military examinations even though he was not proficient in the essentials of the subject under examination.

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10. In spite of this sustained political inculcation [REDACTED] only a small minority were actually or apparently convinced and enthusiastic about Communism. Even in this minority there were some who went through the motions of a convinced enthusiast for opportunistic reasons or just to be left in peace. [REDACTED] there were about four Party men in [REDACTED] platoon of 33 men and about 10 Party men in the company of 120 men. [REDACTED] During and at the end of each school [REDACTED] there were attempts to recruit some of the men for the Party.

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